

More than anything, Jarmusch is a sort of focused amateur enthusiast. "I consider myself a dilettante in a positive way, and I always have," he said. "That affects my sense of filmmaking." His passions, which reflect his resolute disinterest in the conventional, include the study of mushrooms ("I almost died after eating wild mushrooms"); bird-watching ("In 12 years, I've identified about 80 birds in my yard in my home in the Catskills"); the authorship of Shakespeare's plays ("I think it was Christopher Marlowe"); the history of cinema ("Some mornings I'll wake up and say, 'There's an Ophuls film I haven't seen, and I need to see it *today*'"); and, most of all, music. He wrote "Broken Flowers" while listening to recordings from the early 70's by Mulatu Astatke, an Ethiopian jazz-funk artist (whose music ended up in the film), and is currently enthralled by a duo called Coco Rosie, who, as he described them, "sound like two little Billie Holidays an octave higher if you were on acid in Tokyo in 1926." "I think I was supposed to be a musician," he said. To him, movies should aspire to the immediate sway of music. "I want to capture the temperature, the texture, the atmosphere you can inhale just by listening to a three-and-a-half-minute song."